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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 9 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In addition to my previous letters dated 28 June and 5 July 2007, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM regarding the forthcoming "presidential elections" to be held on 19 July 2007 in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM

9 July 2007

The GUAM Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs expresses its deep concern over the reported intention of the separatist regime, created in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to conduct so-called "presidential elections" on 19 July 2007.

The Council stresses that the conduct of so-called "elections" represents a serious violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as relevant norms and principles of international law. These "elections" shall be considered as null and void, and their results can not have any legal consequences.

The GUAM Council stresses that such an act shall not mislead the international community, since it runs contrary to the universally recognized standards and values of democracy, rule of law and human rights. This illegal act is aimed at creating a fait accompli situation in the conflict settlement, thus affecting negatively the ongoing peace negotiation process.

Legal elections can be held in the Nagorno-Karabakh region only after its reintegration into political, legal, social and economic system of the Republic of Azerbaijan, its full rehabilitation, return of displaced persons to the places of their permanent residence, restoration of transport communications and ensuring the peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in this region.

The GUAM Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs calls on the international community to unequivocally condemn such an illegal act and to support the ongoing efforts aimed at finding a peaceful resolution of the conflict on the basis of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.